

ADDITIONAL DATA ON THE BIRDS OF THE
BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN.

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MR. Gordon B. Wellman's article, "Further Records of the Birds of the Boston Public Garden from the Notes of Horace W. Wright,"¹ is of peculiar interest to many people in Boston and vicinity for it rounds out the published record of a complete quarter of a century of careful observation of this "isolated park area in the midst of the city." Mr. Wright's "Birds of the Boston Public Garden, A Study in Migration,"² recorded one hundred and twenty species of birds observed within the seventy-two acres comprising the Garden and Boston Common and Mr. Maurice Broun's "The Birds of the Boston Public Garden, 1921-1924,"³ enumerated nine more; Mr. Wellman, with the twenty-seven additional species which he found mentioned in Mr. Wright's unpublished journal covering the years from 1909 to June 1920, has brought the total for the region to one hundred and fifty-six.

In view of the facts that the Garden and the Common attract a great many bird-lovers, all of whom are intensely proud of this splendid list of birds, and that the records since 1924 have been collected by the writer in another connection, it would appear not inadvisable to bring the interesting story down to the present day. Mr. Broun, to whom thanks are due for the use of his private records, continued to visit the Garden regularly until January, 1929 and to make complete notes on the birds observed there, and for the past two years the territory has been watched carefully by the writer and several other persons. During the years since the beginning of 1925, eleven species have been added to the list of the Garden avifauna, making a total of one hundred and sixty-seven to date, and five of the birds mentioned by Prof. Wellman as not having been seen between the years 1908 and 1925 have again been observed. These latter records are as follows:

¹ The Auk, Vol. XLVII, 1930, pp. 523-527.

² Boston and New York, 1909.

³ South Braintree, 1925.

Glaucionetta clangula americana. AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.—Mr. Broun writes that he saw three drakes fly over the Garden on May 2, 1926.

Cryptoglaux acadica acadica. SAW-WHET OWL.—A bird was captured in the studio of an artist on Dartmouth Street on November 17, 1928, banded by Mrs. Alice B. Harrington, Secretary of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association, in the presence of Mr. Broun and the writer, and liberated on Boston Common. Another bird remained all day on April 29, 1929 in a small hawthorn in the Garden where it was seen by the writer and many other persons.

Dryobates villosus villosus. HAIRY WOODPECKER.—A female of this species was seen in the Garden at 2.30 o'clock on the afternoon of November 29, 1925 by Mr. Broun.

Protonotaria citrea. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.—For three days, May 20, 21 and 22, 1927, a fine male sojourned in a tall Scotch elm near the corner of Boylston and Arlington Streets. It was first discovered by Mr. Broun and later seen by nearly all the bird-students who visit the Garden in spring.

Vermivora chrysoptera. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.—Mr. Broun reports seeing a bird of this species on May 13 and 14, 1926, and again on May 23, 1927. The writer saw and heard a male on May 11, 1929 and is of the understanding that there are other records.

The list which follows is that of the eleven species added after January 1, 1925.

Phalacrocorax auritus auritus. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—In the early morning of May 3, 1929, the writer saw four birds flying southeast in characteristic formation. They passed low over the State House dome and across a corner of the Common, heading towards the harbor.

Anas rubripes rubripes. RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK.—The following Garden records made by Mr. Broun seem to him to be of typical *rubripes*: one bird on November 13, 1926, October 15, and 18, 1927; two on October 12, 1927.

Aix sponsa. WOOD DUCK.—A drake of this species was seen several times in the autumn of 1927. Mr. Francis H. Allen first noted the bird on September 3, and Mr. George L. Perry and others observed it later in September and early October. It was last reported by Mr. Broun on October 14.

Erismatura jamaicensis. RUDDY DUCK. On May 28, 1931, a full plumaged drake spent the entire day in the pond and was observed by Messrs. Francis H. Allen, George L. Perry and others.

Gallinago delicata. WILSON'S SNIBE.—At about eight o'clock on the morning of April 24, 1926, Messrs. I. C. Tomlinson and Broun came upon a bird feeding in the grass near the bridge. It was as tame as the Robins which were all about it and permitted an approach of within fifteen feet. As Mr. Broun expresses it, the bird "was extracting worms faster than any of its companions." It remained for forty minutes.

Totanus flavipes. LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.—Mr. Broun and the writer, on August 21, 1928, were the fortunate observers of a bird of this species which circled low over the pond and gave its characteristic note.

Oxechus vociferus. KILLDEER.—On April 10, 1926, Messrs. Lawrence Kilham and Bróun found a single bird feeding in the sediment at the Boylston Street end of the Pond-bed, the water having been drawn off previously, and on March 28, 1928 at ten minutes after one P.M. two individuals were seen by Dr. Francis Harper in the same locality.

Quiscalus quiscula quiscula. PURPLE GRACKLE.—Mr. Broun, who has had experience in New York in distinguishing birds of this species from their near relatives, Bronzed Grackles (*aeneus*), has identified three birds, one of which was also seen at very close range by the writer. The records follow: one bird on the Common on September 14 and October 3, 1927, and one bird in the Garden on September 24, 1927. Mr. Broun, who obtained his early training in bird-identification from Mr. Wright, says that that gentleman always had expectations of seeing typical *quiscula* in the Garden, but never realized them. According to Mr. William Brewster, occasional typical *quiscula* occur about Cambridge.¹

Progne subis subis. PURPLE MARTIN. On the morning of May 18, 1931, Mr. George L. Perry saw a bird of this species flying over the pond.

Telmatodytes palustris palustris. LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN.—On the dull overcast morning of September 27, 1927, Mr. Broun found an individual of this species moving "pathetically" about in some low bushes near the middle entrance to the Garden from Charles Street.

Paroaria cucullata (Lath.). RED-CRESTED CARDINAL.—From June 2 to 25, 1926, this bird (undoubtedly an escaped cage-bird, although its plumage was in perfect condition) was seen daily on the Common in the vicinity of the Frog Pond. It was first noted by Mr. Arthur Parker and was observed and heard to sing on several occasions by scores of bird-lovers including the writer. Mr. Broun's description of its song, taken from a newspaper article is worthy of repetition. "It was a very delightful song," he writes, "as varied and jubilant as that of a Catbird singing earnestly, but more voluble and rich. Whenever it took flight from the ground, the cardinal uttered a short, low-pitched whistle that could not be compared with any of the notes of our native birds."

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¹ The Birds of the Cambridge Region of Massachusetts. 1906, p. 248.